

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11-13 are independent. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, and 13 have been amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, specifically on pages 11 and 12. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,977,964 to Williams et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,005,631 to Anderson, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,438 to Bedard.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...means for generating a first image corresponding to the user preference information;

means for generating a search condition setting image corresponding to a user set search condition;
means for generating a second image corresponding to a search result; and

means for superimposing the first image, the search condition setting image, and the second image or the first image or the search condition setting image and the second image over a current video signal...” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Pat. No. 5,977,964 to Williams et al. (hereinafter, merely “Williams”) relates to a method and apparatus for automatically configuring a system based on a user’s monitored system interaction and access times. A system controller configures the operating parameters of the system in accordance with the user preference information of the user profile corresponding to the determined entertainment system user.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,005,631 to Anderson, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Anderson”) relates to organizing and searching a electronic programming guide. A single program descriptor is assigned to each program in the electronic programming guide data which is transmitted to home communication terminals. A relationship is then separately established between these descriptors and criteria used by the subscriber to search for programs of interest.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,793,438 to Bedard (hereinafter, merely “Bedard”) relates to an intuitively operated electronic program which presents program guide information in a table form at two levels of resolution.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Williams, Anderson, or Bedard, taken alone or in combination, that discloses or suggests the above-identified features of claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that Williams, Anderson and Bedard fail to teach or suggest means for generating a first image corresponding to the user preference information, means for generating a search condition setting image corresponding to a user set search condition, means for generating a second image corresponding to a search result, and means for superimposing the first image, the search condition setting image, and the second image or the first image or the search condition setting image and the second image over a current video signal, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above, independent claims 6 and 11-13 are patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are dependent from one of the amended independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

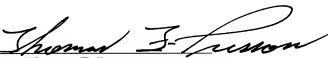
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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